

## Meeting minutes

### Koala Advisory Council

<b>Subject</b>	Koala Advisory Council – Meeting #12
<b>Chair</b>	Mark Townend
<b>Meeting Type</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Date and location</b>	24 March 2021 Level 3, Gondwana Rainforest Room 400 George St
<b>Timing</b>	10am-12pm

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Mark Townend</b>	Spinal Life Australia
<b>Anita Cosgrove</b>	The Wilderness Society
<b>Al Mucci</b>	University of Queensland, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
<b>Jonathan Rhodes</b>	University of Queensland - School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science
<b>Julie McLellan</b>	Healthy Land and Water
<b>Kirsty Chessher-Brown</b>	Urban Development Institute of Australia
<b>Crystal Baker</b>	Lead - Planning & Development, Local Government Association of Queensland
<b>Lawrence Swan</b>	A/ Executive Director, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
<b>Ramses Zietek</b>	Program Delivery and Operations, Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>Rebecca Kenny</b>	Director, Policy, DSDILGP
<b>Kirstin Kenyon</b>	Executive Director, Wildlife and Threatened Species, QPWS&P, DES
<b>Rob Hughes</b>	Director, Conservation Policy and Planning, DES
<b>Geoff Lundie-Jenkins</b>	Director, Wildlife and Threatened Species, QPWS&P, DES
<b>Alex Graham</b>	Executive Director, Environmental Policy and Planning, DES
<b>Liz Young</b>	Director, DES
<b>Zoe Kemp</b>	Manager, Koala Policy and Oversight, DES
<b>Mark Simpson</b>	Senior Policy Officer, Koala Policy and Oversight, DES (Minutes)

## Speakers

Name	Organisation
Alex Graham	Department of Environment and Science
Zoe Kemp	Department of Environment and Science

## Apologies

Name	Organisation
Marina Vit	MOSAIC Property Group
Mick Stephens	Timber Queensland
Bill Ellis	University of Queensland, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Rosie Booth	Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital
Kristy Gooding	Natural Assets and NRM, Local Government Association of Queensland
Chris Aston	Planning Group, Queensland Treasury

## Items

Item #	Discussion
	<b>Welcome from Chair and other business</b>
	<i>Mark Townend</i>
	<b>Conflict of interest</b>
	None
	<b>Minutes from previous meeting</b>
	Minutes endorsed. Al Mucci requests amendment to show that he sits on the Council as a representative of the University of Queensland and not the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
	<b>Update on projects being undertaken by Environmental Policy and Planning</b>
1.	<i>Liz Young</i> Update on 3 projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liz Young presented an update to the KAC on project areas relating to concerns local governments had identified with koala habitat mapping and its interaction with the planning system.</li><li>• The first project area relates to requests by local governments to manage land use conflicts where new KHA has been proposed for inclusion into the regulatory koala habitat maps. This is the specific issue raised by LCC.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Project is progressing, and DES is meeting with LCC in the following week.</li></ul></li><li>• The second project area relates to challenges associated with the matters of State environmental significance (MSES)/ matters of local environmental significance (MLES) framework and the need for DES to provide SEQ local governments with more detailed technical guidance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ This project is now complete. All SEQ local governments have been provided with the technical advice, with consideration of how this might be</li></ul></li></ul>

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shared to all Queensland local governments being discussed by Planning Group and DES.

- The third project area relates to the broader challenges posed by the MSES/MLES framework.
  - While DES had committed to developing a detailed scoping paper in relation to reforming the framework by February 2021, this paper was deferred due to its links to other government processes and an update will be provided at the next KAC meeting.

LGAQ will be participating in the meeting between DES and Logan next week.

The KAC Noted the status of the 3 projects.

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### **Welcome to Country**

2. *Al Mucci* acknowledged the Countries where the Council was meeting.

*Lawrence Swan* acknowledged Country

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### **Meeting Purpose**

*Alex Graham*

3. Alex introduced the Implementation Plan and Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for the SEQ Koala Conservation Strategy.

Alex noted that significant work had taken place with stakeholders and a workshop with Council members to improve both documents.

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### **Koala Conservation Strategy Implementation Framework and MERI Framework – for endorsement**

*Zoe Kemp*

#### **Implementation Plan**

- DES received detailed feedback from local government including discussion at the Local Government Working Group.
- DES will be undertaking further consultation on the Implementation Plan with local government and will provide additional time for council officers to brief executives elected members and seek endorsement of local government actions under the Implementation Plan.
- Key risks identified and discussed in relation to the Implementation Plan include the current constrained fiscal environment, data availability/suitability and the need to strengthen coordination and collaboration of implementation for example, through partnerships.
- KAC members also identified that appropriate resourcing of the Implementation Plan was critical to the success of the Koala Conservation Strategy. LGAQ noted it has included a request regarding implementation in its 2021-22 State Budget submission.

#### **MERI Framework**

- DES received feedback from the Council and local governments on the MERI Framework, including running a workshop for Council members.
  - As a result, the MERI Framework will be shorter, tighter and more focussed.
  - Council members raised concerns with tracking outcomes under the MERI Framework, will discuss with DES outside of the Council meetings.
  - The Council recommend that minor issues be discussed between DES and Council members outside of meetings, and if issues can't be resolved, then they be brought before the Council at a future meeting.
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- It was noted that the MERI Framework may be subject to change pending finalisation and any changes that may need to be made to the Implementation Plan following local government feedback.

The Council:
3.1 Endorsed the MERI Framework for publication, subject to amendments that may be required to align with any changes associated with finalisation of the Implementation Plan.
3.2 Endorsed holding the release of the MERI Framework until the Implementation Plan is finalised to ensure a coordinated release. Approximate timeframe of July/August 2021. Agreed that DES will provide copies of updated MERI Framework and Implementation Plan to KAC members prior to release.
3.3 Endorsed the publication of the Implementation Plan subject to further consultation with and endorsement by local governments. Action – DES to agree the consultation process with LGAQ.
3.4 Agreed DES will provide DTMR and UDIA the opportunity to review any changes to the Implementation Plan resulting from further consultation with local government prior to release.
3.5 Agreed that a letter be sent from the Council to the DES Director-General noting it supports progress with the MERI Framework but that the Council seeks assurances that the MERI Framework will be appropriately resourced, both in financial and human resources terms.

#### **Post Implementation Review (PIR) – for endorsement**

*Zoe Kemp*

- 4.
- Overview of PIR process, noting that this must occur within 2 years of the Regulation taking effect and will include public consultation.
  - The Council were interested in the data that will inform the PIR.
  - Council members asked how DES is going to assess the impact of legislation given there is no control/counterfactual scenarios.
  - DES indicated they will look backward, and compare to what has changed under the new framework.
  - Council members noted a large number of changes to other regulatory regimes, and the need to separate the impacts of the koala regulations from other reform.
  - DES noted that the intent is to identify how the new regulatory framework is operating and whether any modifications are needed.
  - DES stated a willingness for UDIA, and other members, to provide feedback on proposed PIR data sources and provide any data sets they may have, example market data, that may inform the PIR.
  - The Council requested DES to come back with a detailed plan on the scope of the PIR and the approach, process and methodology to be used.

The Council:
4.1 Noted the current status of the PIR.
4.2 Recommended that members provide DES with any relevant data and feedback on proposed <b>PIR data sources</b> to assist with scoping the PIR.
4.3 Requested DES to come back with a detailed plan on the scope of the PIR and the approach, process and methodology to be used.

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### Other remarks

- DES noted that Zoe Kemp is changing roles within DES and will no longer be the Manager of Koala Policy and Oversight.
- DTMR requested that members of the Coomera Connector project team present at the next Council meeting. Council members endorsed.
- Council members asked DES to present the communications plan for the release of the MERI and Implementation Frameworks at a future Council meeting.
- Council members asked that DES present their approach to koala conservation outside of SEQ at a future meeting.
- Healthy Land and Water offered to present what they are doing with the Commonwealth Government in the post fire rehabilitation space. The Council endorsed this.

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### Closing remarks

*Mark Townend*

## Action

Reference	Action	Responsible	Status	Due Date
12.1	DES to provide the Council with more information and updates on key projects being undertaken with local government regarding koala habitat mapping	DES		Next meeting of the Council
12.2	DES to provide finalised versions of both the MERI and Implementation Frameworks prior to release.	DES		Approximately July/August 2021
12.3	DES to assist Chair draft a letter, for the Council endorsement, to send to the DES DG regarding ongoing resources for delivery of MERI Framework	Chair		Next meeting of the Council
12.4	DES and the Council to prepare for discussion as to what the scope of the PIR should be and what data, methodology etc. should be used.	The Council/DES		Next meeting of the Council
12.5	Members of the Coomera Connector team prepare presentation.	DTMR		Next meeting of the Council
12.6	Healthy Land and Water to prepare presentation on current projects being undertaken in partnership with the Commonwealth Government	Healthy Land and Water		Next meeting of the Council

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12.7	DES to prepare a paper on current approach to koala conservation outside of SEQ	DES	Future meeting of the Council - TBD
12.8	DES to present communication plan for release of MERI and Implementation Frameworks prior to their release	DES	Before release of Frameworks, approximately July/August 2021

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